



## Envision Arlington Standing Committee

Date: Monday, August 10, 2020  
Time: 7:30 - 9:00 PM  
Location: Online, via Zoom  
Meeting ID: 963 4641 4648

**Attendees:** Greg Christiana, Kelly Lynema, Scott Lever, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Michael Brownstein

**Guests:** Michaiah Healey, Lenard Diggins, Elizabeth Dray

### **1. Introductions**

Kelly opened with an explanation of Gov. Baker's suspension of normal rules around open meetings and allowance of remote meetings, such as the current meeting by Zoom. The meeting is not being recorded as Greg is taking notes.

Michael Brownstein has been approved for membership on the Standing Committee.

Elizabeth Dray considering submitting an application for joining the Standing Committee.

Kelly to send EA Standing Committee material for Michael to review as a new Standing Committee member, e.g. material and will pass along to the entire Standing Committee.

### **2. Approve June minutes**

Approved by unanimous vote.

Greg to send June minutes to EA mailing list.

### **3. Update: Task Group outreach by Stand Committee Members**

Elisabeth sat in on the Spy Pond Committee. They're working with state agencies on projects. Lots of activity within this committee.

Sue and Len attended the June meeting of Sustainable Arlington Committee. Len spoke with Brucie who explained that they're dealing with pollinators, and the idea of community gardens. Looking to do a class for winter.

### **4. Update: Task Groups**

Michaiah spoke with Juli Brazile about the Diversity Task Group (DTG). Discussion involved mobilizing people and how various groups could work together better, including HRC and community groups such as Arlington Fights Racism. Also discussed if EA Governance group could be involved to expand inclusiveness of voice not traditionally represented.

Scott asked Greg about community conversations he's starting. Greg explained that he's working on a series of letters with Barbara Thornton related to policing in Arlington and the aftermath of Lt. Pedrini's writings. But this effort is not affiliated with or coordinating with EA Standing Committee.

Greg and Michaiah discussed how EA Standing Committee could shift focus to connecting various groups in town.

Len suggested that DTG help with raising awareness among diverse constituencies in town, e.g. outreach for the survey.

Kelly explained that the Town struggles with outreach.

Michael asked about EA's charter, i.e. the Town Goals. Elisabeth explained that they are posted on the Envision Arlington website ([www.arlingtonma.gov/envision](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/envision)).

Len spoke about Governance. First, get more people involved in Town government, e.g. running for Town Meeting. Second, touch members of the community.

Michael reached out to the Superintendent to set up a time to meet.

Scott reached out to Arlington Education Foundation (AEF).

## **5. Update: Budget**

CDGB has been approved and requires a signature, which Scott as acting co-chair as agreed to sign. The grant was approved by Town Meeting in the summer.

## **6. Discussion: Recruiting**

### **7. Discussion: Standing Cmte role and leadership needs**

Kelly reached out to Town Manager's office and Planning Department about filling vacancies on the EA Standing Committee.

Scott to share with the committee a list of the current appointments and vacancies.

## **8. New Business**

- a. Scott appointed to Parks & Rec committee.
- b. Scott suggested discussion at the September agenda about the Town Survey, addressing inclusion and access. Survey usually open from first week of January to first week of March.

Elizabeth (Dray) emphasized the need for outreach to be considered early, especially outreach to stakeholder groups in town, and suggested two groups: content group and outreach group. Scott mentioned also the role of collation and reporting, which maybe is handled by technology.

Greg asked about metrics to correlate demographics of survey respondents with demographics of the town. Kelly explained that the survey asks demographic questions, but they're optional. In general there are fewer responses from renters than homeowners.

Elisabeth discussed Open Space Community entering new phase of Open Space and Recreation plan. Received funding and hiring a consultant this fall.

Elizabeth gave an update about the BLM at the UU Church and Calvary Church being defaced, as well as personal yard signs with KKK stickers.

Greg moved to draft a statement tonight to condemn the vandalism of signs. Kelly explained that the Town would be releasing a statement early tomorrow. There was no second to the motion, so the motion failed.

Scott moved to schedule an emergency meeting on Thursday at 7:30pm to discuss the vandalism and how EA Standing Committee should respond. Greg seconded. Motion passed. Kelly to post the meeting publicly.